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VOL. 27.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1895.

NO. 53

Inter-Society Debate.

The Zetagathians Win in the Contest Last Night.

The third Inter-Society Debate was held in the Opera House last night, Messrs. F. W. Beckman, H. O. Pratt and E. G. Moon speaking for the Zetagathians, and Messrs. W. C. Dewell, J. H. Allen and S. D. Whiting for the Irvings. The music was furnished by a quartette consisting of Messrs. Impey and Cochrane and Misses Williams and Bailey. Professor J. A. James of Cornell College, Dr. L. W. Andrews and Professor W. C. Wilcox, acted as judges.

The question discussed was: "Resolved, That Taxation of Incomes is a wise, equitable, desirable and practicable method of raising a portion of the governmental revenue; and that it is expedient at the present time in most of the great nations of the world.

It being understood:

(a) That the method of taxation shall be that known among modern economists as the progressive or graduated system.

(b) That all incomes below \$600 shall be exempted, the exemption being the estimated lowest amount upon which the average poor man's family can live with reasonable comfort."

Walter M. Davis, the President of the Inter-Society Debating League, introduced the speakers.

F. W. Beckman in opening the debate, called attention to the position of the affirmative, which was to interest itself with principles and leave the details of the plan to legislation. He declared it the purpose of the affirmative to establish that: (1) Income should be the basis of taxation, (2) the rate should be progressive, and (3) the scheme is practicable and expedient. The first of these three he proved by trying the various methods by Adam Smith's four canons of taxation: (a) ability, (b) certainty, (c) convenience, (d) economy. Ability is not tested by property, for property yields different returns, and salaries, no matter how large, would escape. Certainty was also, he said, to be attained through the income tax, for the amount and time and manner of payment could be most easily determined. Convenience could also be attained by it, for its collection costs only about two thirds as much as that of ordinary taxes. Furthermore, it is economical, for it does not interfere with business or industry, as it is not levied on capital or any of the agents of production. It is a flexible tax, as it has been made to yield from five to seventeen millions of pounds sterling in England according to the needs of the government. The income tax not only meets the economic requirements of a good tax when tried by these four established canons, but as proposed in the question under discussion it conforms to the fifth canon added by Sismondi, that of an exemption of a sum necessary for existence. This exemption clause corrects the two evils of (a) the disproportionate expense of the collection of taxes on small incomes, and (b) the inequality of a tax on commodities when such a basis of

taxation is used. The income tax meets the requirements of a financial system in that (a) It is productive of revenue. It yielded \$350,000,000 during the Civil War in the United States, and is to-day productive in England, Germany, France, Austria and Italy. (b) It is flexible (elastic), and thus perfects a financial system. It has been objected that the income tax is (a) a tax on industry and thrift. So is any other tax. (b) Inquisitorial; so are all taxes. The time of voluntary contributions to the support of the state is gone. Considered as a whole the income tax more nearly approximates justice than other taxes.

W. C. Dewell said his opponent had confined his remarks to the income tax and had evaded the question of progression. Bastable objects to a progressive income tax because it (1) is arbitrary, (2) gives opportunity for fraud, (3) causes emigration, as it is a tax on industry and thrift, (4) is a subjective tax. He then produced a chart which showed that the English system considers the source not the amount of the income; which Cossa says must be considered. Furthermore, the English "Bluebook" expressly states that the English system is not a graduated system. In defending this system the affirmative join issues with the Populist party, which declares in its platform: "We demand a graduated income tax." They must to win the question prove that it is (1) wise, (2) equitable, (3) desirable, (4) practicable, (5) expedient at the present time in most of the great nations of the world, (6) that the progressive rate is better than any other, (7) that \$600 is the proper exemption.

Now "Progressive taxation consists in the arbitrary, continuous increase of the rate of taxation according to a certain regular increment in income; and the progressive feature of the tax can not cease at will, but must proceed until it reaches 100 per cent." A degressive tax increases to a certain point, while a proportional tax is the same rate per cent to all. Progressive taxation is still a theory. Not a single great nation has it. Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries alone have such a system. The United States income tax was not successful. It was characterized by evasion, fraud, and six or seven states containing 40 per cent of the population paid 75 per cent of the income tax.

H. O. Pratt said we have established the justice of (1) the income tax and (2) the exemption. Progression alone has been attacked. The first consideration in judging of the equity or justice of the tax is the consideration of equality. Taxes should be equal for the reason that government ought to make no distinction between persons or classes in the strength of their claims upon it. But equality of taxation means equality of sacrifice. Equal ability implies equal capacity for bearing sacrifice. The same tax levied upon men of equal property will impose unequal sacrifice, and so the tax must be different in amount to correspond to the difference in ability. We must determine under what system of taxation this principle can be realized. There are

two great theories of taxation, the benefit theory and ability or faculty theory. The inadequacy of the former theory as a basis for taxation has long since been pointed out. The system which takes ability or faculty as the standard by which to measure the amount of one's taxes is the one that is most widely known and is most widely accepted as the correct basis. Man's ability to pay is measured by his income or revenue. It must be determined whether or not this ability increases in the same ratio, in less ratio, or in greater ratio, than his income. In other words, it must be determined whether the rate of tax should be proportional, regressive, or progressive. It is found that man's ability increases in a greater ratio than his income. A proportional or regressive tax is therefore unequal. To progressive taxation, therefore, we must look as the nearest approach to distributive justice. Of all the income taxes this is the tax which satisfies the principle of equality. He demonstrated by a chart that all the essential elements of progression were present in a proportional tax when any exemption was allowed.

J. H. Allen, the next speaker, showed that the present tax systems are satisfactory. He disputed the interpretation of Seligman's definition of an income tax, declared that the benefit theory had not been urged by the negative. The English progressive income tax was not successful. The report of the commissioners and Gladstone's statement prove this. The United States income tax is a vote catching scheme. The \$4,000 exemption is a proof of this. The tax systems of the various countries are best adapted to themselves, Germany, France, and the United States need protection, England does not. The progressive tax is unconstitutional in the United States, as may be proven by decisions of the Supreme Court and by decisions in twenty of the states. It has been declared unconstitutional in Germany, as shown by Burgess' statement.

E. G. Moon said equality is admitted as a principle of taxation. Each must sacrifice to the government. Equality of sacrifice then is the correct principle. The same per cent levied on rich and poor does not result in equality of sacrifice. The tax has been said to be inquisitorial. What tax is not? Likewise all taxes are unpopular. The income tax in England has stood for one hundred years. He demonstrated by a chart that the income tax is reliable. That it has always realized as much as the official estimate in England, Prussia and Austria. The new ministry of France proposes to stake its success on the adoption of a progressive income tax. The decrease in the revenue from this tax in this country is due to the raising of the exemption from \$600 to \$1,000, and then to \$2,000, and also to the contraction of the currency. Now should the governmental revenues be placed on a lasting foundation? If so taxes should be contributed by the rich and not wrung from the poor.

The third speaker for the negative, Mr. Whiting, said the affirmative had

misrepresented the English system. It is degressive because a degressive system may either increase or diminish, while the progressive must go forward to 100 per cent. The two objections to the plan of the affirmative were (1) the progressive feature, (2) the exemption. Progression confiscates property, and is arbitrary. It depends upon (1) income and ability and (2) increased rate. Income is not a criterion of ability. This is a socialistic theory, supported by Wagner and Rousseau. Progressive taxation is not successful in Germany. Except the government employes no one pays his share. It leads men to perjure themselves. The \$600 exemption is not a just exemption. It is the interest from \$20,000 at 3 per cent. Hence it is discriminating, interferes with free competition, is undemocratic and vicious in principle. Seligman says progressive taxation of personality under actual conditions would be an utter delusion. It is unconstitutional in the United States and Germany, discarded in England, and the favor shown it in France is due to socialism. It would be a fiscal failure in Russia.

Dewell, in closing the debate for the affirmative, brought up the question of the definition of progression again, reading a telegram from Francis A. Walker, which said that a moderate exemption of income is not sufficient to constitute a progressive tax in the ordinary sense of the word. The affirmative have not shown why they would place the rate of the progression on sums above \$600. How could they prove that any one rate was better than any other, and lastly, how is it to be collected?

Pratt closed the debate. He challenged the statement that progression must continue to 100 per cent. The highest ever known was 37 1/2 per cent. Seligman's definition was once more brought into use. The negatives interpretation was denied. The exemption under the proportional system furnished all the principles of progressive taxation, even if Francis A. Walker does not call it progression. He claimed the affirmative had established the justice, practicability and desirability of progressive taxation.

The judges decided unanimously in favor of the affirmative.

The successful society adjourned to Burke's, where oysters and speeches were indulged in until a late hour.

The debate was good, and held the attention of the audience, but was marked by entirely too much quibbling as to the definition of the question, and as to the correct reading of paragraphs in the works of several prominent economists who were quoted in many instances by both sides, and in support of opposing arguments.

The Zets showed a more careful analysis of the question, and the argument of each speaker supplemented that of the others more than did that of the Irvings. Beckman's line of argument was probably the strongest presented. Moon's method of presentation was superior to that of any of the debaters. Pratt did not warm up to his subject in the first speech, but redeemed himself

(Continued on page two)

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THE VIDETTE REPORTER,
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On next Wednesday evening there will be a mass meeting of citizens at Close Hall to discuss ways and means for the erection of the Kirkwood Memorial. The interest shown in these first meetings will determine largely the approval with which the project will meet throughout the entire state. It is also true that the liberality which Iowa City will show in her contributions will determine the amount which will come from other parts of the state. The Iowa City Republican, in an excellent editorial on this subject, said that it was but reasonable that this county should take the initiative in this movement. The proposed cost of the building has not yet been determined upon; some favor erecting a building costing two hundred thousand dollars, and others favor limiting this to one hundred thousand. What part of this amount Iowa City should attempt to contribute will be discussed at this meeting to be held next Wednesday evening. It is our opinion that if it is decided to erect a building costing two hundred thousand dollars the people of this county would not hesitate to raise fifty thousand. The people of Iowa City surprised even themselves in their liberality when it came to erecting Close Hall, and the Kirkwood Memorial will appeal to a much larger number than did Close Hall, for the reason that more people will be interested. There are many of our pioneer citizens in this county who have acquired sufficient wealth not to be seriously affected by a liberal contribution for this cause. Many of these were personal friends of Gov. Kirkwood, and will not allow this opportunity to escape to show their appreciation for his generosity. Many of our most prominent citizens realize what the erection of such a building means to Iowa City. They realize that

it will not only be laying a foundation for making our University one of the leading institutions in the West, but it means that Iowa City will be the permanent home of the University. It is to be hoped that the students will be interested in the erection of this building. No one can do more in this matter than can the students themselves. Keep your home papers informed of what is being done in this city, and present the needs of the University in a true light. There are plenty of students interested in this to do an unlimited amount of good if they only realized the opportunity afforded them.

Engineering Society.

Professor Jameson read a paper on "Engineering Specifications of Two Thousand Years Ago," before the Engineering Society, last Tuesday evening, in which he showed that many of the methods of construction to-day are but small improvement on the methods used at that time.

In the main the paper consisted of extracts from a book written by Marcus Vitruvius Pollio something like two thousand years ago, of which there have been thirty-nine translations made, the earliest in 1400 A. D. At that time Archimedes had conceived the idea that water assumed a spheroidal form because the earth was a spheroid. A crude form of Portland cement was made, and the more learned were familiar with a way of finding a north and south line that does not differ materially from the way now in use. The book may be found in the Library, and is of great value from a collector's standpoint.

(Continued from page one.)

in his closing speech, which was excellent.

Dewell did not make as convincing an argument as he usually does, though his outline was good. Allen did not seem at ease on the floor, and did not present his argument so that the bearing of one point on another could in every case be made out. Whiting presented what was in most respects the best argument for the negative. His line of argument was good and his presentation convincing.

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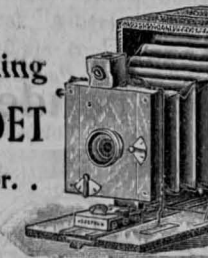
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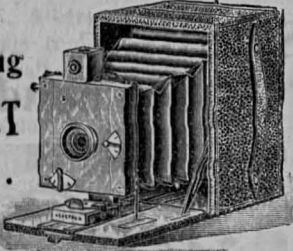
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Fact and Rumor.

Miss Messer is the guest of Miss
Mary Bostedht.

Kathleen Conner, '95, entertained
her father Thursday.

James Dower, Law '93, of Marengo,
is in the city on legal business.

C. E. Wood spent the fore part of
the week at his home at Nassau.

Zell and Harry Hutchinson enjoyed
a visit this week from their father.

Professor Hale lectured in Cedar
Rapids, Thursday evening, on "Em-
erson."

The Sophomore classes in tactics
will soon begin the perusal of "guard
duty."

Mr. Jasper, of Newton, has been
visiting classes in the University this
week.

Carrol D. Wright, a graduate of the
Collegiate and Law department, is in
the city on legal business.

The Freshman English has taken
on an interesting phase, a portion of
each hour being devoted to extempore
composition work.

Werner's Magazine for December,
1894, devotes a page to Bertha M.
Wilson, '92, who is taking high rank
among dramatic writers. It speaks in
the highest terms of her work, especi-
ally of her costume monologues. We
quote following: "Her work is distin-
guished for its dramatic conception,
its vividness, originality and unaffec-
tedness; and, while artistic, it is writ-
ten with vigor and directness." Miss
Wilson is the special pupil of Helen
Potter, who speaks of her great abil-
ity as critic, author, and impersonat-
or. She has become quite popular as
a writer for current literature.

LATEST STYLE HATS AND FURNISHING GOODS AT BLOOM & MAYERS.

Max O'Rell one week from to-night.

Miss Cora Pryor, who has been taking work in the University this year, has been elected to a position in the city schools as one of the grammar room teachers.

At the Germania Wednesday night papers were read by Mr. Ditzzen and Miss Clem Otto. A report on "Swallows" was given by Mr. Bartsch. After the debate Mr. Eversmeyer was initiated.

The members of the Astronomy class have been assigned topics for papers which they are to prepare and read before the class. The regular recitation hour will be devoted to the consideration of each paper.

The Y. W. C. A's. held their regular business meeting Wednesday. Routine business was transacted and an amendment to the constitution passed providing that the names of new members shall be passed upon by a committee instead of the whole Association.

The Harvard Archives.

The January number of the New England Historical and Genealogical register contains an interesting account of the collection of books and papers in the Harvard University Library which are known as the Harvard Archives. The article is by W. G. Brown, who has charge of the papers.

It is doubtful if there is anywhere in the country so valuable and interesting a collection about which so little is known. It was not till two years ago that a shelf list of the collection was made. They are now classified in three groups, according as they relate to the affairs of the corporation, the overseers, or the immediate government of the university and its various departments.

Among the corporation papers are the "College Books," so called, the manuscript records of the president and the fellows from the charter of 1650.

There is probably no other non-political corporate body in America which can exhibit written records extending over so many years. Of the steward's books there is not a perfect series, the first volume beginning with 1650. These contain a mass of material on the subject of prices, of the greatest possible value to any one who compiles for America a history of prices similar to the compilation made by Thorold Rogers for England. The Harvard college papers, in forty-one quarto volumes, relate for the most part to the financial affairs of the corporation, though some of the earlier volumes are of wider interest. Exceedingly interesting volumes are those made up of papers concerning the Charlestown ferry, the receipts from which were among the first revenues of the infant college, concerning the foundation of early professorships and concerning the lands and other properties of the corporation in colonial times. A specially interesting collection is found in the twenty-one bound volumes of Bowdoin prize dissertations from 1888 to 1894. The number of dissertations by men who afterward attained eminence is remarkable. J. G. Palfrey and Jared Sparks are contributors to the first volume. Later papers are by George Bancroft, R. W. Emerson, B. R. Curtis, Charles Sumner, G. T. Curtis, E. R. Hoar, R. H. Dana, E. E. Hale, J. C. Carter, Phillips Brooks and others scarcely less well known.—Cardinal.



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No. 49. Freight for Cedar Rapids, 3:00 p.m.
No. 39. Passenger for Elmira, Cedar Rapids and West Liberty, 6:32 p.m.
No. 41. Passenger for Cedar Rapids, Minneapolis and St. Paul; also for Columbus Junction & Burlington, 9:30 p.m.
No. 34. Passenger for Riverside, What Cheer and Montezuma, arrives at 8:40 a.m. and leaves at 9:25 a.m.
No. 37. Passenger arrives from Riverside and Muscatine, 10:50 p.m.
No. 40. Passenger arrives from Cedar Rapids and Clinton, 10:30 p.m.
No. 48. Freight for Riverside leaves 10:50 a.m.
No. 4. Passenger for Burlington and St. Louis leaves 4:00 p.m.
No. 38. Passenger from Clinton, Cedar Rapids and Davenport arrives 7:30 p.m.
No. 36. Passenger for Muscatine and Riverside leaves 5:25 p.m.
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**PISO'S CURE FOR
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The Military Ball

There has been considerable discussion by the students this year relative their efforts and give a ball sometime during the winter. The only difficulty has been to find somebody to take the matter and formulate plans for making it a reality. At the request of a number of students connected with the battalion Major Vogdes kindly appointed the following committee, and has promised them in every way possible. Powell, Rowell, Ditzen, Irwin, Toll, Radasch, Morrialeton, Hobby, Gibbs, Clarke, Horak, Alberson, Schaefer, Capell. This committee, composed of men from all of the companies, met in the Armory to-morrow noon at 3 o'clock, to make arrangements. About eighty of the battalion have expressed a desire to attend, and about 100 students who have drilled in the past years will attend. It is proposed to make the party a brilliant event, and if the members of the battalion propose to work thereon why it cannot be such. It is impossible for all to be provided with uniforms, consequently it is obligatory to wear a uniform of the universities where drill is practiced now give at military party during the winter there is no reason why you should not give a party that will be a pleasant remembrance to all who have taken part in the military of the University. It is hoped this committee will all be present at the meeting Wednesday afternoon.

Athletics.

President Elliot, of Harvard, in his annual report, says in regard to athletics: "The evils of the intercollegiate sports, as described in my report of last year, have without redress or diminution become worse and worse as regard violent play and the number and gravity of the injuries the players suffer. It has become perfectly apparent that the game as now played for college use. The rules are at present such as to cause a large number of broken sprains and wrenches, even in trial or practice games played by amateurs, and they also permit who play with reckless violence with shrewd violations of the rules to gain thereby great advantage. It is called the development of the game has steadily increased its popularity. They have become unmanageable. Naturally the public is losing interest in the professed desire of certain and promoters to reform the game should be distinctly understood that the players themselves have no responsibility for the evils of the game. They are swayed by the public opinion—partly correct and partly barbarous—to the extent of which graduates, fathers, mothers, graduates, fathers, mothers, leaders of society, and gamblers and rowdies, all contribute to the state of mind of the players at a hard fought foot ball